



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
ARKANSAS FIELD OFFICE
10800 Financial Centre Parkway, Suite 110
Little Rock, AR 72211



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October, 2010

Contact: Patrick Boyle
(800) 327-2970

USDA TO STUDY COTTON PRODUCTION PRACTICES

Little Rock, Arkansas – With harvest underway, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will soon begin contacting cotton producers to learn about their production practices during the 2010 growing season. As part of the Agricultural Resource Management Survey (ARMS), USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will gather data on farmers' chemical use, fertilizer use, and pest management practices for cotton.

"Conducted every fall, ARMS serves as the primary source of information on the production practices, resource use and economic well-being of America's farm operations and farm households," said Patrick Boyle, deputy director of the Arkansas NASS Field Office. "The survey results help agricultural leaders and decision-makers better understand how producers cope with risk, adapt to policy changes, and make decisions about chemical use, new technologies and many other aspects of farming."

This year, ARMS will focus on cotton. This will be the first time since 2007 that ARMS has focused on cotton production. Beginning in November, NASS representatives will conduct face-to-face interviews with nearly 1,600 cotton growers nationwide, including 200 in Arkansas.

"When contacted, producers will be asked to provide information on their fertilizer, nutrient, bio-control and pesticide applications, as well as their pest management practices," added Boyle. "Early next year, we will follow up with some of the participants to obtain additional economic data."

As with all NASS surveys, information provided by respondents is confidential by law. NASS safeguards the privacy of all respondents and publishes data only in aggregate form, ensuring that no individual operation or grower can be identified.

For more information on NASS surveys and reports, visit www.nass.usda.gov, or call the NASS Arkansas Field Office at (800) 327-2970.

###